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To Bureau of the Budget
Bulletin No. 57-3

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

May 11, 1956

Dear Mr. Brundage:

The recent report of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government entitled Report of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, Part II, the Nation's Paperwork for the Government directs attention to the problem of Government requirements which impose unnecessary paperwork on the public. The report recommends:

"That the President direct the Bureau of the Budget, together with its Advisory Council on Federal Reports and in cooperation with the General Services Administration, to give increased emphasis in their reports program to the need to protect the public from unnecessary reporting burdens by continuing the method of cooperation between industry and Government pursued by our task force as outlined above."

I endorse the Commission's recommendation that increased emphasis be placed on actions to reduce unnecessary reporting burdens on industry and the public. In recognition of the responsibilities for the improvement of government statistical activities and for the promotion of economy and efficiency in executive branch operations already assigned to the Bureau of the Budget, I believe the Bureau is the logical agency to assume leadership in such activities. A significant portion of the paperwork required of the public is associated with government forms and related reporting requirements which require your approval under the Federal Reports Act, and I am gratified at the substantial progress already made in this program by the Bureau and its Advisory Council on Federal Reports.

I wish you to give increased emphasis in this program to the elimination of reporting requirements which impose unnecessary paperwork on the public. With respect to matters not subject to review under the Federal Reports Act, I want you to proceed with the development, in cooperation with the affected executive agencies, of plans for eliminating unnecessary public reporting requirements and for simplifying related procedures and systems in such agencies.